

## Message Text

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10/17  
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SSM-05 SAJ-01 ACDA-10 SAM-01

SAB-01 SCCT-01 /115 R

66620

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:MVANORDER:DP:RGH

APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

EUR/P - MR. JERABEK

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

SSM - MS. GREEN

NEA/ARP - MR. DICKMAN

AF/P - MR. POPE

NEA - MS. GRIFFIN

NOTE: REENTRY DUE SYSTEMS HALT NBR 171 - ADX NBR 071390

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R 060202Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USMISSION NATO  
AMEMBASSY SANA  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY DOHA  
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
USMISSION SINAI  
CINCEUR

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GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL, CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS  
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR  
APRIL 5, 1976:

MR. FUNSETH: I HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT TO MAKE ON A TRIP.  
THE SECRETARY PLANS TO ATTEND THE NATO MINISTERIAL MEETING  
IN OSLO ON MAY 20 AND 21 AND THE CENTO MINISTERIAL MEETING  
IN LONDON ON MAY 26 AND 27. IN ADDITION, THE SECRETARY  
WILL REMAIN IN NORWAY AFTER THE NATO MINISTERIAL MEETING  
FOR TWO DAYS, 22ND AND 23RD. HE WILL VISIT SWEDEN MAY 23  
THROUGH 25 AND LUXUMBOURG ON MAY 25.

I HAVE ONE MORE ANNOUNCEMENT. I WANT TO CALL YOUR  
ATTENTION TO STATEMENTS MADE SINCE OUR BRIEFING ON FRIDAY  
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CONDEMNING THE FIRING OF SHOTS AT THE SOVIET UN MISSION  
EARLIER ON THAT DAY. I AM SURE ALL OF YOU SAW THE  
PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT AND GOVERNOR SCRANTON'S. IN  
ADDITION, MAYOR BEAME, SENATOR JAVITS, THE NATIONAL  
CONFERENCE ON SOVIET JEWRY AND THE AMERICAN JEWISH  
CONGRESS ALSO ISSUED STATEMENTS REPUDIATING THAT ACTION.

Q. CAN YOU TELL US WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT THE SITUATION IN

LEBANON AT THE MOMENT, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO  
SYRIAN INTERVENTION -- NAVAL AND OTHERWISE?

A. FIRST, I HAVE SEEN SOME OF THESE REPORTS -- PERHAPS

NOT ALL OF THEM -- BUT WE WOULD URGE CAUTION IN TAKING LITERALLY ALLEGATIONS BY INTERESTED PARTIES TO THE DISPUTE.

SECONDLY, THAT BEING SAID, FOR OUR PART WE DO NOT HAVE ANY CONFIRMED EVIDENCE THAT THESE REPORTS ARE CORRECT. OUR CENTRAL CONCERN REMAINS CONTINUANCE OF THE CEASEFIRE AND AN ORDERLY AND CONSTITUTIONAL SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEMS IN LEBANON.

FINALLY, I WOULD JUST LIKE TO SAY OBVIOUSLY THE SITUATION IN LEBANON IS EXTREMELY DELICATE AND I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR US TO ATTEMPT TO HAVE A PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF THE SITUATION THERE.

Q. -- I NOTICE IN OUR CENTRAL CONCERNS YOU HAVEN'T RESTATED OUR INTEREST IN THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND SOVEREIGNTY OF LEBANON. WOULD YOU LIKE TO REPEAT AGAIN --

A. THAT REMAINS.

Q. -- HOW INTERESTED WE ARE IN LEBANON'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY?

A. THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO CHANGE IN THAT WHATEVER.

Q. ARE YOU STILL OPPOSED TO ANY MILITARY INTERVENTION?  
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A. YES, SIR. WE BELIEVE THAT MILITARY INTERVENTION BY OUTSIDE PARTIES CONTAINS GREAT DANGERS AND MUST BE AVOIDED, AND ALL OUTSIDE PARTIES CONCERNED ARE WELL AWARE OF OUR POSITION.

Q. DOES THIS MEAN YOU ARE NO-COMMENTING REPORTS THAT THERE ARE ALREADY CONSIDERABLE NUMBERS OF SYRIAN FORCES IN LEBANON?

A. NO. I SAID WE DO NOT HAVE ANY CONFIRMED EVIDENCE THAT THESE REPORTS ARE CORRECT.

Q. ON THAT SUBJECT, SINCE WE HAVE NOBODY IN THOSE CITIES, AM I CORRECT IN ASSUMING THAT YOU WOULD HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING IF IT WERE TRUE OR NOT?

A. I WOULD NOT GO SO FAR AS TO MAKE THAT KIND OF AN ASSUMPTION.

Q. YOU DO HAVE MEANS OF KNOWING IT AND YOU STILL HAVE NO CONFIRMED EVIDENCE?

A. I AM NOT SAYING THAT WE HAVE THE CAPABILITY OF CONFIRMING EVERY REPORT THAT COMES OUT OF LEBANON, BUT I AM NOT EXCLUDING IT IN THIS CASE. ALL I AM SAYING IS THAT AS FAR AS THESE SPECIFIC REPORTS ARE CONCERNED, WE DO NOT HAVE ANY CONFIRMED EVIDENCE THAT THEY ARE RIGHT.

Q. HAVE YOU INQUIRED OF SYRIA AS TO WHETHER THEY ARE RIGHT?

A. I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER WE HAVE HAD AN EXCHANGE WITH SYRIA ON THIS SUBJECT OR NOT.

Q. CAN YOU BE SPECIFIC ABOUT WHAT YOU HAVEN'T GOT CONFIRMED EVIDENCE ABOUT, SO THERE'S NO CONFUSION LATER? MILITARY INTERVENTION -- AND, PARTICULARLY, BY SYRIA -- NAVAL FORCES.

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A. YES.

Q. COULD I ASK: YOU HAVE NO CONFIRMED EVIDENCE, PRIOR TO THE PUBLICATION OF THE REPORTS THAT APPEARED THIS MORNING, THAT AT LEAST A FEW HUNDRED SYRIAN MILITARY MEN ARE IN LEBANON; IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?

A. WE ARE RESPONDING TO THE REPORT THAT HAS COME OUT OF LEBANON WITHIN THE LAST 24 HOURS.

Q. NO; I'M SAYING APART FROM THIS. I'M ASKING THE SAME THING THAT BERNIE IS SEEKING TO CLARIFY -- FORGETTING THIS MORNING'S REPORT ABOUT THE NAVAL ACTIVITY -- THE PORTS. YOU'RE SAYING THAT YOU HAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT THERE MAY BE AS MANY AS 600 SYRIAN OFFICERS AND NON-COMS IN LEBANON?

A. THAT IS CORRECT; WE HAVE NO CONFIRMED EVIDENCE.

Q. THERE'S A REPORT THAT SAID THAT ISRAEL DELIBERATELY SANK THE LIBERTY INTELLIGENCE SHIP IN '67. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THAT?

A. I DO NOT HAVE ANY. I HAVE NOT RECEIVED ANY GUIDANCE

THIS MORNING ON THAT. MY RECOLLECTION IS THAT THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT HAD APOLOGIZED FOR THAT TRAGIC EVENT. I HAVE NOT BEEN INFORMED THAT THERE IS ANYTHING THAT HAS DEVELOPED SINCE THEN THAT WOULD CAUSE ANYONE IN THE ADMINISTRATION OR IN THE GOVERNMENT TO REOPEN THE CASE.

Q. MY RECOLLECTION IS THAT THERE WAS AN INVESTIGATION THAT WAS LAUNCHED BUT WE WERE NEVER TOLD THE OUTCOME OF THAT INVESTIGATION. COULD YOU ASCERTAIN WHETHER WE COULD BE TOLD THE OUTCOME OF THAT INVESTIGATION?

A. I WILL TAKE YOUR QUESTION.

Q. THERE'S A REPORT OVER THE WEEKEND ALSO THAT ISRAELI PLANES TRIED TO SHOOT DOWN AN AMERICAN SURVEILLANCE UNCLASSIFIED

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PLANE OVER ISRAEL AT THE TIME OF THE '73 WAR.

A. I CERTAINLY DO NOT KNOW ANYTHING OF THAT. I THINK THE SAME SOURCE IS THIS AUTHOR THAT PUBLISHED THIS BOOK.

Q. NO, NO. IT'S TWO DIFFERENT THINGS.

A. I DO NOT KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT.

Q. BACK TO LEBANON. DOES DEAN BROWN NOW HAVE AUTHORITY TO CONTACT OR TO HAVE DISCUSSIONS WITH ANY MEMBERS OF THE PLO?

A. NO.

Q. ANY COMMENT ON THE STORY IN THE POST TODAY ON TIME MAGAZINE ABOUT ISRAEL HAVING THIRTEEN ATOMIC BOMBS AND ASSEMBLING THEM AT ONE POINT?

A. I THINK THAT IS A REPEAT OF AN OLD STORY. AND WE HAVE SAID IN THE PAST, THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT HAS PUBLICLY SAID THAT IT WILL NOT BE THE FIRST COUNTRY TO INTRODUCE NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. AND MOREOVER, I RECALL THAT PRIME MINISTER RABIN SAID ON "ISSUES AND ANSWERS" ON SEPTEMBER 7 THAT ISRAEL IS A NON-NUCLEAR COUNTRY. AND I WILL JUST RESTATE THOSE REMARKS.

Q. IS DEAN BROWN ACTIVELY INVOLVED STILL IN EFFORTS TO MEDIATE THE CIVIL WAR IN LEBANON?

A. I WOULD NOT DESCRIBE HIS EFFORTS AS MEDIATION. HE CONTINUES TO MEET WITH LEBANESE POLITICAL LEADERS.

Q. DOES HE MEET WITH LEADERS FROM ALL FACTIONS EXCEPT THE PLO?

A. I DO NOT KNOW HOW MANY HE HAS NOW SEEN. THERE CERTAINLY ISN'T ANY RESTRICTION, AND HE IS MAKING THE JUDGMENT AS TO WHICH PEOPLE HE SHOULD SEE, BUT I THINK HE HAS COVERED A PRETTY BROAD SPECTRUM BY NOW.

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Q. IF HE HAS COVERED A PRETTY BROAD SPECTRUM, AND IN THAT SPECTRUM CERTAINLY ARE THE FORCES THAT HAVE BROUGHT THE SYRIANS INTO LEBANON, HOW COULD YOU NOT KNOW OR BE ABLE TO CONFIRM THAT SYRIAN TROOPS ARE COMING INTO LEBANON? DOES DEAN BROWN NOT REPORT BACK WHAT HE HEARS?

A. I AM SURE HE DOES REPORT BACK, AND HE HAS REPORTED BACK. I AM JUST SAYING THAT WE DO NOT HAVE ANY CONFIRMED EVIDENCE ON THOSE REPORTS.

Q. DO YOU HAVE PRETTY GOOD EVIDENCE?

A. I AM NOT GOING TO TRY TO SHADE IT. WE HAVE NO CONFIRMED EVIDENCE. WE ARE AWARE OF THESE REPORTS, BUT WE HAVE NO CONFIRMED EVIDENCE.

Q. WOULD THE UNITED STATES BE DISTURBED IF IT FOUND OUT THAT THERE WERE SIX HUNDRED OR MORE SYRIAN TROOPS IN THE GUISE OF SA'IQA FORCES IN LEBANON?

A. MY ANSWER TO THAT IS AS I RESTATED THIS MORNING. WE ARE OPPOSED TO ANY MILITARY INTERVENTION BY OUTSIDE PARTIES. WE THINK IT WOULD BE DANGEROUS AND NOT HELPFUL.

Q. WOULD THE UNITED STATES REGARD THAT AS OUTSIDE MILITARY INTERVENTION IF IT ASCERTAINED THAT THERE WERE SEVERAL HUNDRED SYRIANS IN LEBANON IN THE GUISE OF SA'IQA TROOPS?

A. I THINK THAT BECOMES SLIGHTLY HYPOTHETICAL, AND I WOULD PREFER TO ANSWER THE QUESTION WHEN WE HAVE AN ACTUAL FACT BEFORE US.

Q. NO, WAIT A MINUTE. IN WHICH WAY WOULD IT BE HYPOTHETICAL, IF THEY HAVE COME IN IN SA'IQA TROOPS IF YOU

DON'T KNOW IF THEY HAVE COME IN IN SA'IQA TROOPS?

A. I DO NOT HAVE ANY CONFIRMED EVIDENCE THAT THERE IS OUTSIDE MILITARY INTERVENTION IN LEBANON, (A). (B), WE ARE OPPOSED TO IT. AND (C), WHEN WE HAVE  
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CONFIRMED EVIDENCE OF INTERVENTION WE WILL MAKE OUR STATEMENT.

Q. DOES IT MATTER TO YOU THEN -- IS THAT YOUR POSITION -- HOWEVER SYRIAN FORCES ENTER LEBANON, WHATEVER UNIFORMS THEY ARE WEARING OR CAPS?

A. OUR POSITION IS WE ARE OPPOSED TO MILITARY INTERVENTION BY OUTSIDE PARTIES. WE THINK IT WOULD BE VERY DANGEROUS. AND WE HAVE SAID THIS IN PAST DAYS, AND I AM REITERATING IT AGAIN TODAY.

Q. AND EVEN IF THEY ARE INVITED IN YOU ARE OPPOSED TO IT?

A. INVITED IN BY WHOM?

Q. BY LEADING SYRIAN ELEMENTS, BY THE LEADING LEBANESE ELEMENTS.

A. WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT OUTSIDE INTERVENTION --

Q. THE PHALANGISTS DON'T SEEM TO MIND ANY MORE, AND YOU ARE TELLING ME THAT DEAN BROWN DOESN'T KNOW THAT THIS IS GOING ON, AND YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT IS GOING ON.

A. I AM SAYING THAT WE DO NOT HAVE CONFIRMED EVIDENCE.

Q. ARE WE WORKING IN ANY COORDINATED WAY IN THE MOST REMOTE DEGREE WITH THE SYRIANS ON TRYING TO GET SOME PEACE IN LEBANON? ARE WE IN ANY EXTRA DIMENSION OF CONTACT WITH DAMASCUS ON LEBANON?

A. I HAVE SAID THAT WE HAVE HAD VERY CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH ALL OF THE OUTSIDE PARTIES.

Q. YES, BUT I AM ASKING ABOUT DAMASCUS AND WASHINGTON. ARE WE DOING ANYTHING GOING BEYOND THE NORMAL CONTACTS WE HAVE WITH DAMASCUS BECAUSE OF THE LEBANESE SITUATION?

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A. YOU MEAN HAVE WE DISCUSSED LEBANON WITH DAMASCUS? OF COURSE WE HAVE.

Q. ARE WE COORDINATING ANYTHING TO BRING ABOUT A CEASEFIRE, WE WITH DAMASCUS?

A. I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO DESCRIBE OUR CONTACTS WITH SYRIA AS ONE OF COORDINATION, BUT DEAN BROWN IN LEBANON IS CONSULTING WITH LEBANESE POLITICAL LEADERS IN ORDER TO CONTINUE THE CEASEFIRE AND ACHIEVE AN ORDERLY AND CONSTITUTIONAL SOLUTION OF TB POLITICAL PROBLEMS. AND AT THE SAME TIME, WE ARE CONSULTING WITH OUTSIDE PARTIES.

Q. WHAT DID THE SECRETARY MEAN WHEN HE TOLD THE SENATE

FOREIGN RELATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE LAST WEEK THAT IF IT HAD NOT BEEN FOR U.S. CONTACTS WITH ARAB NATIONS THE LEBANESE SITUATION WOULD HAVE EXPLODED?

A. I WAS ASKED THAT QUESTION ON FRIDAY, AND I THINK MY ANSWER WAS THAT OBVIOUSLY THAT REPRESENTED HIS ASSESSMENT AND JUDGMENT OF THE RESULTS OF OUR EFFORTS. BUT I AM NOT GOING TO EXPAND BEYOND THAT.

Q. SIR, YOU KEEP TALKING ABOUT OPPOSING OUTSIDE INTER-FERENCE. WHAT DO YOU MEAN EXACTLY BY THAT? HOW WILL YOU OPPOSE IT? IS IT A PRACTICAL OPPOSITION? WHAT STEPS WOULD YOU TAKE IF THERE IS INTERVENTION?

A. I AM NOT GOIN G TO SPECULATE ON WHAT STEPS WE MIGHT TAKE IF IN FACT IT OCCURS.

Q. HAS THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAD ANY WORD FROM BAHRAIN, AS ANNOUNCED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER ON SUNDAY, THAT BAHRAIN HAS DECIDED TO TERMINATE THE U.S. USE OF NAVAL FACILITIES THERE EARLY IN '77?

A. I DO NOT HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT SPECIFIC REPORT. BUT I CAN CONFIRM THAT THEY HAD EARLIER INDICATED TO US THEY WOULD LIKE TO PHASE OUT THE U.S. NAVY'S MID-EAST FORCE USE OF FACILITIES THERE DURING 1977. AND WE UNCLASSIFIED

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HAVE BEEN IN CONSULTATION WITH THE BAHRAIN GOVERNMENT ON THIS MATTER IN THE SPIRIT OF THE CLOSE AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS THAT EXIST BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

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## Message Attributes

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